

Iowa Institution for the Education of
the Blind
(Iowa Braille & Sight Saving School)
Vinton
Benton County
Iowa

HABS No. IA-63

HABS
IOWA,
6-VINT,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN DESCRIPTIVE AND HISTORICAL DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS
IOWA
6-VINT,
1-

IOWA INSTITUTION FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE BLIND
(NOW CALLED IOWA BRAILLE AND SIGHT SAVING SCHOOL)

HABS No. IA-63

Location: Vinton, Benton County, Iowa

Present owner: State of Iowa

Present use: School for the blind

Significance: After the University of Iowa, the Iowa institution for the Education of the Blind is the oldest state educational institution in Iowa. Its main building is the oldest of those of any state "charitable institution" and, next to Old Capitol in Iowa City, it may be the oldest surviving state institutional building in Iowa. Its designers were builder-architects of practical rather than professional training, and were reputable men.

PART I.

HISTORY

Dates of construction:

Main building (central portion of the existing structure): constructed between 1858 and November 1862. It faces east.

South wing: 1868-1869

North wing: 1872-1873

Chronology:

1858 March 22 An act of the Seventh General Assembly established the school at Vinton.

- May 8 Commissioners met at Vinton to secure the county's donation of \$5,000.
- June 1 Commissioners met at Vinton to select the site.
Construction was begun.
- 1860 April The first commissioners were replaced by James B. Locke; plans were revised.
- July 26 Locke signed a contract with Finkbine and Lovelace to enclose and complete the building.
- 1862 October The school was opened.
- November Work on the building was completed.
- 1866 Lawson hot air furnace replaced the original stoves which had heated the building.
- 1868 Foundation stone of the south wing was laid.
- 1869 Finkbine and James Chapin were appointed to study heating systems for the building.
South wing, sitting rooms, and male dormitories were completed.
- 1871 Engine house built and heating system installed; slate roof replaced pine shingles on main buildings.
- 1872 April 30 George Josselyn began plans for the north wing.
- July 18 Contract for constructing north wing awarded to Finkbine and Lovelace.
- 1873 November North wing completed.
- 1874-75 New and larger engine house was built.
- 1877 Grounds were landscaped in an English informal fashion.
- 1888-89 New slate roof was put on the main building.

- 1890-91 Building was wired for electricity and a water system was installed.
- 1905 Hospital was built.
- 1909 Gymnasium built.
- 1913 Extensive modernization of the building and the addition of an auditorium and a new front porch by Proudfoot, Bird and Rawson, Architects, Des Moines.
- 1927-28 Children's cottage built.

Architects:

Robert S. Finkbine and Chauncey F. Lovelace worked with the state-appointed commissioners for the school on the design and construction of the main building, constructed and probably designed the south wing and also constructed the north wing. In 1850, Finkbine had come to Iowa City "as a builder" from Ohio, where he had received his education and practical experience. Over the years he established a reputation for honesty, as a man who "could not be bought or sold", (1:9). He combined this honesty with expert knowledge of building materials and construction. It was as superintendent of the state capitol in Des Moines during the 1870's that he became best known. Although Finkbine was referred to as an "Iowa City contractor" (46:157), he and Lovelace were called architects at the time the main building at Vinton was being designed and built (12:5). It seems that over the years, Finkbine moved away from the designer's role toward the contractor's. In 1864 Finkbine was elected to the first of two terms in the Iowa House of Representatives, where he became Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. He died in 1901.

Chauncey Lovelace was born of Welch parents on June 23, 1828 in Cincinnati. There at age sixteen he became appointed to Andrew Clyde,

"a draughtsman and house builder." When he was nineteen he moved to Iowa City and "engaged in his trade" and "drew the plans for many public buildings" including a building for the State University and the Johnson County Courthouse in Iowa City (5:865). During the Civil War he served in the Union Army and after returning to architectural work in Iowa City in 1866, became a stockholder and director of the Johnson County Savings Bank.

George Josselyn, who designed the north wing, lived previously in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, and then in Independence, Iowa, where he was superintendent of the construction of the north wing of the Iowa Hospital for the Insane, which was begun in November 1868.

Original and subsequent owners:

The State of Iowa

Original and subsequent names of the institution:

1853	Asylum for the Instruction of the Blind
1855	Institution for the Instruction of the Blind
1860	Iowa Institution for the Education of the Blind (name at the time school was opened at Vinton)
1872	Iowa College for the Blind
1920	Iowa School for the Blind
1954	Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School

Process of design:

Although there is a long history of caring for the blind, it was not until the late 18th century that an attempt was made to provide an education for blind people. About 1850 Abbe de l'Epee began a school in Troyes, France, for two deaf and dumb children that he knew. As an outgrowth from his interest in l'Epee's work, Valentin Haüy founded the

first school for the blind, the Institution Nationale des Jeunes Aveugles, in 1784 in Paris. The school was taken over by the state during the French Revolution. At about this same time schools for the blind were being founded in major European cities: Liverpool (1791), London (1799), Vienna (1805) and Berlin (1806). The first American school for the blind, the New England Asylum for the Blind (now Perkins School for the Blind), opened in Boston in 1832. Later that same year a school opened in New York and was followed the next year by one in Philadelphia. The first state-supported school was founded in Ohio in 1837 (3:776). The dual function of the schools was first to provide "a good education" and second to provide "technical instruction by which a living may be secured" (31:15). This attempt to provide the blind with practical skills in order to make them "useful" members of society figures predominately in reports from the Iowa School for the Blind.

It is interesting to note that in none of the documents describing the intended design of the building, its later additions, or its internal organization is any mention ever made of special architectural features that should be included in the design of this type of building. Unlike the procedure followed in the design of state hospitals for the insane, special consultants were not called in, nor was any special planning followed because most of the occupants of the projected building could not see.

The first school for the blind in Iowa was founded in Keokuk in August 1852 by Samuel Bacon, himself a blind teacher, who began there with three pupils. On February 3 of the following year, the school was moved to Iowa City (then and through 1857, the state capital) and taken

over by the state. In the school's Trustee's Report to the Seventh General Assembly (1857-58), an appropriation of funds was requested for a suitable building to be built in Iowa City (11:5-7). However, by an act approved on March 22, 1858, the school was permanently moved to Vinton, about forty-five miles northwest of Iowa City. There a building was to be constructed on a site of not less than 40 acres which was to be donated to the state. The legislature appropriated \$15,000 and an additional \$5,000 was to be raised by subscription from the citizens of Benton County, in which Vinton lay. That \$20,000 was to "cover the entire cost of completion of the building and out-houses and appurtenances" (6:246-47). This figure proved to be unrealistically low.

The first board of three state-appointed commissioners met in Vinton on May 8, 1858 to secure the county's donation. They met there again on June 1 to approve the donation and to select the site. A 40 acre tract located at the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 20, in Township 85, north of Range 10 west of the 5th PM was given to the state by John W. O. Webb (12:3).

To begin planning the new facility the board sent its secretary, J. C. Traer, to visit schools for the blind in Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin and to study their plans, specifications, size, and cost (12:3). No record of his findings was reported, but after his return the following design was agreed upon. The building was classified as a "Style of Architecture, Ionic" and with the basement having "Rustic Work". The building was to be 108 ft x 64 ft, with a 54 ft long central section projecting 6 ft, and it was to be four stories high (14 ft, 12 ft, 11 ft and 11 ft respectively bottom to top). The height from the basement

floor to the top of the cornice was to be 68 ft; from the ground to the top of the cornice was to be 64 ft, and from the basement floor to the square of the cupola was to be $73 \frac{2}{3}$ ft. The height to the top of the cupola was left unspecified. The planned area of the building, including portico and steps, was 7,698 sq ft, and the intended volume of the rooms and halls was 339,356 cu ft.

From the beginning it was expected that wings would be added to the ends of the building. The foundations, walls below grade and the basement partitions were to be of "hard blue limestone"; sills and steps were to be granite; the walls above grade were to be gray or white limestone; interior partitions, other than the basement, were to be brick; and walls subdividing "apartments, are, in some instances necessarily of wood and iron." All openings in interior and exterior walls were to "have 'discharge arches' thrown over them." The roof was to be "self-supporting or trussed," metal covered, and the cornice was to be wood lined with metal. The intended heating system was to be hot air steam heated "to guard against fire" as well as for economy and health. Lighting was to be "with gas manufactured on the ground." The intended functional organization was to have the "domestic apartments", kitchen, dining room, washing and drying rooms in the basement and the main school room, two study rooms, office, library, reception room and parlor on the first floor. Rooms for the superintendent, matron and teachers and main chapel were planned for the second floor. The third floor was to contain a hospital, bathrooms and sleeping rooms and the entire fourth floor was to be dormitories.

"After the adoption of the above plan" Finkbine and Lovelace from Iowa City, who were referred to as architects, were called to prepare working plans, specifications, and the front elevation. However, the report filed when the second floor walls were nearing completion goes on to say that the board members "are indebted" to Finkbine and Lovelace "for many of the most valuable features of the building" (12:4-5).

The act of March 22, 1858, which relocated the school, stated that the board of commissioners were to employ an architect to help with the plan (6:246). However, at what point in planning or in preparation of working drawings, those "valuable features" were incorporated is unclear. It is interesting to note that in the programmatic stages it was the secretary of the board and not the architects who visited the other schools. The architect's function seems to have been primarily not that of "designer" but rather more that of "draftsman" to prepare working drawings and specifications and to provide useful and practical information during the construction process.

As construction proceeded, the Board of Commissioners found that the appropriated \$15,000 was woefully inadequate for the building they intended and requested an additional \$40,000 to complete the project (12:7). In explaining their cost overrun to the legislature and asking for the extra money, the board wrote that the building was "constructed of the best materials the country affords... done in the best manner, and under the immediate supervision of the Superintendent and Architects" to provide the state with a structure that is "at once cheap, durable and elegant" (12:6).

With the original \$20,000 spent, the building was far from being finished. On April 3, 1860, the Eighth General Assembly appropriated \$10,000 to complete the shell of the building - "to build the wall... to the top of the third story," to cover the building with a pine shingle roof, and "to enclose the windows and doors." In addition, the terms of the appropriation required that the chapel be omitted, that the ceiling of the room designated for the chapel was to be the same height as other rooms on the floor and that the building should "accommodate the greatest number of pupils". An additional \$10,000 was to be appropriated to complete the interior of the building. However none of this money was to be spent until "such changes in the style of finish and in the intended arrangement are made that the total cost of completing the building will be within \$20,000." The original commissioners were removed and replaced by one commissioner, James B. Locke, who was to submit these changes in the building design to the governor for his approval (7:110-11). Locke asked Finkbine and Lovelace to make the necessary changes in the plans and specifications. On July 3, 1860, a notice was placed in the Vinton Eagle of the acceptance of bids "for enclosing and completing the building". Finkbine and Lovelace's low bid of \$10,420 was accepted. Governor Samuel J. Kirkwood approved the plans and the bid on July 24, and on July 26 Locke signed a contract with Finkbine and Lovelace to have the building enclosed by December 1, 1861 (13:1,3).

This forced reduction in the budget eliminated the fourth floor and caused several cheap substitutions that would in later years prove unsatisfactory and require large expenditures to rectify. One of these changes was to substitute a pine shingle roofing for the intended metal

roofing (7:110). Another major change in the final building was the substitution of stoves to heat the structure rather than steam-heated hot air, causing "a fearful liability to fire from chimneys" (15:6). The problem of proper heating would plague the building for years to come.

Neither at this time, nor when problems arose in later years, was any censure or critical comment made against Finkbine and Lovelace in the records. For example, the records did not state that Finkbine and Lovelace told the three commissioners that the building being planned would cost three times the allocated budget. Thus it would seem that the commissioners were well aware of what the building would cost, or that they took full responsibility for costs, and that the architects functioned more as employees of the different commissions, rather than as professionals function today. The commission bore the major responsibilities for the completion of the building and did not delegate them to the architects. Also, some of the problems arose as the result of reductions in the budget, over which the commissioners, of course, had no control.

In August 1862 the school's "goods and furniture" were moved from Iowa City to Vinton. In early October the building, which could accommodate about 80 pupils, opened with 24.

In the Biennial Report of 1864 a request for \$4,000 to construct workshops and a gymnasium was made (15:7). A 21 ft x 46 ft two story brick workshop, which was basically a broom and brush factory for the male pupils, was built "about 2 rods [33 ft] from the south-west angle of the main building."

Although the main building was far from being used to full capacity when it opened, a Legislative committee visiting the school in 1867 estimated that by the time the following session of the General Assembly was to meet in 1870, twice the existing number of rooms would be needed. They recommended that one wing be added "as designed in the original plan" and that \$30,000 be appropriated for it and a new fireproof roof (17:2-4). The rapid increase in the size of the school resulted, in part, from the need to serve men blinded in the Civil War. According to the 1867 census of the blind in the state these men constituted about 200 of the 412 total blind people (17:2).

The south wing, also built of cut stone, was 32 ft x 60 ft with a 19 ft x 48 ft projection on the back (west) side. It was designed to match the main building and like it had a basement and three stories. It was built with a slate roof. Although no architect is mentioned, Finkbine and Lovelace were awarded the construction contract for \$29,160 and it is probably safe to assume that they were responsible for the design. The foundations were laid in 1868 and the superstructure erected in 1869 (18:7). This addition provided sitting rooms and male dormitories (18:13).

At this time the basement of the main building was used for culinary and laundry purposes. Its first floor was primarily devoted to rooms for the "public and officers", the second contained classrooms and teachers' rooms and the third was devoted to dormitories.

By the time the 14th General Assembly met in 1872, both the Superintendent's and the Visiting Committee's reports spoke of overcrowding again. There were about 100 pupils in the building, its approximate

capacity, and it was estimated that an additional 80 persons in the state could qualify for admission (20:3). The public parlor had been turned into a nursery; there was not enough space for music practice (an important part of the educational program); and "about 40 females are assigned to one sitting room, 18 ft x 26 ft (the dormitories were not heated)" (19:6). The Visiting Committee recommended that \$70,000 be appropriated for a north wing "so as to be convenient and symmetrical" and to increase the school's capacity by "more than 50%" (20:3). The superintendent requested \$100,000 to build, heat, and furnish the wing, which was to contain a dining hall, a concert and lecture hall, sitting rooms, a nursery, and dormitories (19:7). The Fourteenth General Assembly appropriated \$70,000 for the construction of the north wing, which when completed was not to cost more than \$100,000.

On April 30, 1872 the board met and asked George Josselyn, an architect from Independence, to prepare "working plans, with estimates as soon as possible." In the very short time of only 18 days the board met to announce the opening of bids. Two months later, on July 18, the board opened the four sealed bids which it had received and awarded the contract to Finkbine and Lovelace for their low bid of \$64,860. They in turn posted a \$25,000 bond to have the work finished on or before December 31, 1873. Their contract was completed by November 1873 and it was reported that the \$30,000 for completing the building "will be sufficient" to put in a heating system, cisterns and well (21:5).

The building of the north wing seems to reflect a shift to a more formalized design process than existed when the main building was constructed 18 years earlier. The board no longer designed the building

but requested an architect to do it. Finkbine and Lovelace were no longer designers, draftsmen and builders, but had become more specialized as contractors bidding a job they did not design.

The addition of the north wing completed the building and only small changes such as replacing the front porch and cupola of the main building and removing the one on the south wing have been made to the exterior. Some changes, including extensive modernization, have taken place on the interior. The major interior work was done in 1913 and smaller changes have taken place since then. Additional small buildings such as barns and storage facilities, have been added to the grounds. Requests for a gymnasium were made from 1894 on (32:7) until it was finally built in 1909 (41:7). A hospital was added in 1905 (38:66) and other residential buildings have gone up since, so that the original structure no longer houses students.

Contractors:

Main building: J. C. Traer, one of the commissioners, supervised day labor. After July 26, 1869, Finkbine and Lovelace had the contract to complete the building.

South wing: The contract went to Finkbine and Lovelace for \$29,160.

North wing: Finkbine and Lovelace were awarded the contract on July 18, 1872 for \$64,860 to have the building completed by December 31, 1873.

Process of construction:

The board's secretary, J. C. Traer, was appointed superintendent for the construction of the main building. It was assumed that "by the employment of a competent person... work would be done at a less

cost, and in a better manner" (12:5). Contracts were signed with various suppliers and work was done by day laborers.

After the original commissioners were removed and the plans altered, the construction contract was awarded to Finkbine and Lovelace (13:3). They also built both wings. The record notes that James B. Locke, the commissioner appointed in 1860, supervised the construction of the north wing with Lovelace (21:5).

Maintenance and repairs:

One of the school's recurring problems was the inadequacy of its heating system. When it was first designed, the building was intended to have steam-heated hot air (12:4). The drastic budget cut caused twenty stoves to be substituted (15:6, 16:6). Because of the fire hazard from the stoves the Biennial Report of December 1865 requested that a "heating apparatus" like those found in neighboring states be installed (16:6). The Eleventh General Assembly (1866) appropriated money for a Lawson's hot-air furnace which "proved entirely inadequate for the purpose of heating the building." Many rooms could not be heated, only a few could be warmed comfortably and there was a problem of smoke emission. An appropriation request to provide steam heat was made in 1867 (17:2) and a \$5,000 appropriation was made. R. S. Finkbine and James Chapin were appointed to study heating systems and make a recommendation for the school. After investigating public and private buildings in Iowa and Illinois, they recommended steam heating "with indirect radiation, combined with a fan driven by an engine." They stated that the contractor should be able to guarantee a temperature of 65 °F in all heated rooms during the coldest weather (18:8). Their estimate for the cost of

equipment for the main building and south wing, alterations to the main building and a building to house the equipment with room for washing and drying and a smokestack was \$19,000 (18:9).

By December, 1871 the following sums had been spent: \$12,950 to Finkbine and Lovelace for the building and washing apparatus; \$7,064 to Finkbine for supervision and day labor for cold air ducts, flues and brickwork for the boilers; and \$9,408.64 to Walworth, Twolli and Furse of Chicago for the heating system (19:5).

However, by November 1873 a \$12,000 request was made for a new engine house for the north wing boilers and to replace the then existing structure, which was too small and too close to the main building. Because of the limited funds available when the then existing structure was built, it was a "cheap and temporary structure." The new building was to be four times larger and built farther from the main building (21:7).

In 1879 a request for \$1,000 was made to repair the boilers which had been "in constant use for nine years" (24:8). The three old boilers were replaced by two larger ones, which during the winter of 1880-81 "gave complete satisfaction" (25:7).

In 1905 a request was made for \$12,000 for new boilers and smokestack and for enlarging the boiler house (38:59). By June 1906 two 60 in. x 16 ft boilers had been bought for \$1,219.50 and installed for \$1,652.24, and a 100 ft high smokestack with an inside diameter of 5 ft 6 in. was constructed for \$2,872 (39:50).

New boilers were again needed by 1926 and \$3,000 was requested (47:25). That was followed in 1930 by a \$50,000 request for a new heating and power plant (49:62).

In the main building another problem resulting from the budget limitation was that the original pine shingle roofing was not fireproof. In 1870 the legislature appropriated slightly over \$4,000 for slate roofing and repairs to the cornice and gutters (18:10). However this new roofing did not prove totally satisfactory because the slates were too large, so that "too great a surface is exposed to the weather" and high winds caused them to vibrate. Pieces of the slates would then break off, causing the roof to leak (25:20). The Biennial Report submitted on June 30, 1885, stated that R. S. Finkbine had inspected the building and submitted a report on needed repairs. His estimate of cost was \$18,150.55, including the cost of a new slate roof, whose slates he said should not be larger than 9 in. x 16 in. His estimate also included the cost of replacing the wood cornice of the main building and south wing with a galvanized iron cornice to match the one on the north wing and the cost of repairs to the portico, stairs and inside floors (27:8). However, funds were not appropriated until 1888 and the work on the new roof was completed by mid-1889 for \$7,059.20 (30:7).

In 1888 the building's fire protection consisted of two 600 barrel tanks "in the top of the building." Water was "supplied to these tanks by a force pump, operated by steam from a well 100 ft in depth." The tanks were connected to two long hoses on each floor that could reach all the rooms on the floor (29:5). There were four stairwells in the building, and it was reported that after sounding an alarm the building could be emptied in three minutes (29:5). In 1889 that system was termed inadequate and \$3,000 was requested to extend a 6 in. main from Vinton's new water system to the college and to run a 4 in. main around the building and connect four fire hydrants to it (30:7).

At about this same time other modernization occurred. In 1890-91 the building was wired, so that it was then "lighted by electricity, giving better light and diminishing the risk of fire" (31:7). Although the school was for the blind, many of the pupils had at least partial vision. It was over 10 more years before electric lights were put "in the rooms of all the pupils", by 1903 (37:40). The Biennial Report submitted in 1897 requested \$10,000 for a "system of water closets and sewerage." The sewerage was to be piped 1½ miles "to a point below the city of Vinton." It was noted regarding indoor toilets that by this time "nearly all other state institutions are provided with these conveniences" (34:7-8). Only \$4,000 was appropriated, which was insufficient, and work was not started until an additional \$4,000 was made available (35:169). The system was not completed until early 1901 (36:83).

Only brief mention was ever given to the grounds around the building. The Superintendent's Report of 1869 says that the 40 acre site was divided into 10 acre lots. The one with the building on it was landscaped and the others were meadows and pasture (18:13).

In a Joint Committee Report to the Seventeenth General Assembly (1878), the legislators unhappily commented "that a fancy landscape gardener has been permitted to disfigure these handsome grounds by numerous excavations for the purpose of clumping trees, making serpentine walks, and an artificial lake, which is to be supplied by a fountain already planned directly in front of the center building." While they found this English style landscaping "pleasant enough" they thought it to "meet no real necessity", believing that the \$1,000 was for "supposed necessary improvements" and that the money would have been more wisely spent on "some plain furniture and mattresses" (23:3-4).

The Superintendent's Report of 1920 stated that plans by Holm and Olsen of Minneapolis "for landscaping the grounds have been largely followed." But other than saying that a large number of shrubs had been planted, no description of the plan was given (45:227). Except for a curving driveway up to the building, nothing of the English landscaping remains.

The architectural firm of Proudfoot, Bird, and Rawson in 1913 prepared drawings of the building for modernization and the addition of an assembly room projecting from the center of the rear of the building. When the college, as it was then called, had come under the newly created Iowa Board of Education shortly before, a committee had studied five other schools for the blind and had concluded that the old building at Vinton had "as now arranged much waste room and is sadly in need of repair." The committee recommended that the college be organized on the cottage system, because it developed greater self-reliance, and that the old building house administrative functions and teaching and include rooms for the teachers and for older students. On the new plans the rooms were disposed as follows:

- basement: kitchen, dining room, store room, piano-tuning room, domestic science room, manual-training room, wash room for older boys
- first floor: offices, reception, assembly room, living rooms for students and teachers
- second floor: living rooms for students and teachers, apartments for superintendent and his family
- third floor: recitation rooms, music rooms, library, living rooms for one hundred pupils.

During the previous year steel ceilings had been installed (42:53-55, 475-476).

PART 2.

DESCRIPTION

General Statement:

In architectural design the exterior of the building appears to be a simplified version of what Marcus Whiffen calls the Renaissance Revival, Romano Tuscan Mode - an architectural style common in the United States from 1820 to 1860. The rusticated walls, the quoins, and the pediments above the windows follow this style. Differing from the style is the fact that the building is not shaped as one simple block-like form. The front of the main building has a central projecting portion, and the completed building, with its south and north wings, departs far from the block-like form. Also differing is the use, in the porches of the wings, departs far from the block-like form. Also differing is the use, in the porches of the wings, of the flat-topped arches, which Whiffen designates as characteristic of the later High Victorian Italianate style of the period from 1860 to 1890. Also suggesting this later style is the tall and narrow proportions of door and window openings (52:75-77, 97-99). The interior door frames of the main building have a classicizing quality with their broad flat moldings and simplified entablatures.

In the south wing, the exterior matches that of the main building, but its interior door frames have been simplified to flat, right angle moldings and gone is any sort of cornice. At the north wing, some of the pediments above the windows have been omitted. A pavilion at the outer

end of the wing makes the massing more complex and slightly picturesque.

On the inside of this wing, the flat jambs and head moldings were abandoned in favor of wide, convex-concave ones. The flat transom heads of the main building and south wing interiors give way to segmental arches.

Also the north wing does not use load-bearing interior partitions. Spans extend across the wing in three bays, from rooms along each outside wall to a corridor in the middle. In a sub-basement, not found in other parts of the building, heavy timber beams carry the loads to stone piers that resolve them in the footings.

The structure is built out of a local stone quarried about a mile and a half from the site. When first quarried it is relatively soft and brownish, but upon exposure to the weather it hardens and becomes gray. Most of the building is of a grayish color today, except for most of the third floor of the south wing and some stones in the second story of that wing which have a very brown color. The exterior fabric of the building seems to be in good condition, and except for a new cupola, a new maintenance porch, and the auditorium, all added in 1913 it remains unchanged.

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